

*FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY*

# **NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM**

**A Component of the Federal Response Plan  
Emergency Support Function 9**



## **DISASTER SEARCH CANINE READINESS EVALUATION PROCESS**

**Revised — January 2006**

**DHS/FEMA NATIONAL US&R RESPONSE SYSTEM**  
**Disaster Search Canine Readiness Evaluation Process**

Revised – January 2006

**NOTE:** Interpretations and clarification of this document shall be made by the Search Working Group. Any system maintenance issues shall be received by the Search Working Group.

# DHS/FEMA NATIONAL US&R RESPONSE SYSTEM

## Disaster Search Canine Readiness Evaluation Process

Revised – January 2006

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*FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY*

# **NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM**

**A Component of the Federal Response Plan  
Under Emergency Support Function 9**



## **SECTION I**

# **DISASTER SEARCH CANINE READINESS EVALUATION AND RECERTIFICATION PROCESS**

**Revised — January 2006**

## **SECTION I**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Objectives:**

The objectives for developing a standardized Disaster Search Canine Evaluation Process are to:

- Provide uniform methods to determine the current operational readiness levels of all Canine Search Specialists and canines in the National US&R Response System.
- Use the results of the assessment process to identify major strengths and shortfalls for the Canine Search Specialist and their canine for targeted improvement.
- Develop a fair and objective process that can be conducted by DHS/FEMA and sponsoring organizations to determine canine search readiness levels.
- Provide feedback to the respective task force regarding the strengths and weaknesses of their current state of canine search readiness. This information would then translate into a comprehensive plan of action for further Search Team development and improvement. (It is intended that the respective Search Team Managers will be involved in the process.)
- Use the review process as an opportunity to share techniques and ideas between Canine Search Specialists from different task forces on how to address various demands and issues identified during the assessment process.
- Develop a dynamic process where task forces can have their evaluation updated to reflect subsequent attainment of previously identified shortfalls and provide DHS/FEMA with a current, accurate readiness assessment of evaluated Canine Search Specialists and canines for each task force.

#### **Evaluation Documents:**

To facilitate the task force assessment, the following documents have been developed:

- Disaster Search Canine Readiness Evaluation Process
- FSA – Element Descriptions (Section II)
- FSA – Performance Criteria & Evaluation Form Guidelines (Section II)
- CE – Element Descriptions (Section III)
- CE – Performance Criteria & Evaluation Form Guidelines (Section III)
- Forms & Applications Appendix A

## **SECTION I**

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### **Definitions:**

- **Certification**
  - A certified Disaster Search Canine Team is comprised of a search canine and a handler who have successfully demonstrated the performance skills required by the Disaster Search Canine Readiness Evaluation Process (DSCREP), which includes successful completion of the Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA) and the Certification Evaluation (CE).
- **Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)**
  - A pretest of basic skills to assess the team's potential to successfully complete the Certification Evaluation.
- **Certification Evaluation (CE)**
  - An evaluation of a team's skills and readiness to operate in disaster environments
- **Certification Preparation (CP)**
  - An event utilizing all resources for an FSA and CE, but with the intent of preparing and maintaining teams for certification.
- **Hosting Agency**
  - A Task Force, in conjunction with DHS/FEMA, that sponsors (authorizes, recognizes and supports) a canine event.
- **Event**
  - Any training, evaluation, test, deployment, or gathering sanctioned by DHS/FEMA, consisting of at least one canine handler team or teams and other persons.

### **Process / Implementation:**

- The Canine Search Specialist must be at least 21 years of age and meet all DHS/FEMA Personnel Qualification requirements.
- The Canine Search Specialist must be currently rostered on a DHS/FEMA National US&R Task Force.
- The Disaster Search Canine shall be a minimum of 18 months old before attempting the CE.
- The DHS/FEMA Disaster Search Canine Readiness Evaluation Process is divided into two parts:
  - Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)
  - Certification Evaluation (CE)
- Prior to taking a Certification Evaluation the applicant will have completed the FSA administered by any DHS/FEMA Task Force. Two rostered evaluators chosen by the hosting Task Force will administer this assessment.
- The Certification Evaluations will be conducted at the national level, scheduled by the DHS/FEMA Program office.



## **SECTION I**

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- The DHS/FEMA Program Office will use the DHS/FEMA Evaluator Rotation Roster to select evaluators who meet the evaluator criteria (Section V).
- Site requirements for both levels have been determined and are listed in Sections II and III.

### **Code of Ethics:**

- All participants in the Disaster Search Canine Readiness Evaluation Process must abide by the US&R Code of Conduct
- Violation of the Code of Conduct may result in loss of certification, loss of evaluator status, and/or referral to appropriate authorities.

### **Policy On Aggression:**

Each sponsoring organization shall be responsible for assuring that aggressive behavior is either modified or the canine shall not be eligible to participate in events.

### **Definition:**

- Canine aggression is an attempted or actual unprovoked attack on another canine or person. A canine may also be evaluated as aggressive if it exhibits significant warning signs of imminent unprovoked attack (continuous growling, snarling, fear-barking, etc.).

### **Policy:**

- Aggressive behavior toward people shall not be considered acceptable behavior for a canine.
- A canine must be able to tolerate other canines off leash, and under handler supervision, without showing aggression.
- A canine must allow another person to move it to a different location in the absence of its owner. The canine must not show aggression.

### **Repercussions:**

- In the event a canine demonstrates aggressive behavior at any DHS/FEMA event, the following procedures will be followed:
  - **Canine attacks a person:**
    - Upon an unprovoked attack, the canine will be removed from the event. The Chief Evaluator will forward an account of the attack to the Canine Subcommittee for review. The canine is not permitted to participate in DHS/FEMA events during the review process.
  - **Canine attacks another canine:**

## **SECTION I**

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- **Short term** — at an event, the evaluator/host shall immediately review the incident and determine if it is an isolated or long-term problem. If it is an isolated incident, they may choose to allow the canine to continue.
- **Long term** — if this is determined to be a standard behavior, the handler will be advised that this canine is unacceptable to the program and will not be allowed to participate in future events.
- **Reinstatement policy** — a sponsoring agency may petition The Search Working Group to have a canine re-evaluated upon documentation that behavior modification has been successful.

### **Proof of Sociability:**

Each team must provide a written statement from their sponsoring task force that the canine meets the criteria set forth in this policy (included in Evaluation Application — Appendix A).

### **Aggression Testing:**

The following items will be incorporated into the obedience portion of testing:

- Handler ties the canine and leaves unattended. Handler proceeds to a designated area out of the canine's sight. After a minimum of one (1) minute out of sight, a stranger unties the canine and returns the canine to the handler.
- A canine search team completes a Figure 8, around two testing team handlers with their canines ("post team") on lead, sitting at their side and spaced eight feet apart. The testing team shall complete the pattern, on loose lead, passing within two feet of each of the "post" teams. During this exercise all three dogs will be evaluated for aggression.

### **Evaluation Guidelines:**

- Each team shall be allowed seven attempts at each level (FSA and CE). Upon failure of these seven attempts, the team shall be prohibited from further testing
- All canines must pass the aggression test.
- The hosting Task Force has the option of administering the FSA as a segmented evaluation. Elements I through IV may be administered separately from Element V, but the testing team must complete this element within six months of the completion of the original test of Elements I through IV.
- A Disaster Canine Search Team that has passed Elements I through IV within the previous 6 months at an FSA, may take element 5, if offered, at any subsequent FSA. This must be with the approval of the Canine Handler's Task Force.
- The team must successfully complete all required skills in Elements I-V. In the obedience element, a team may fail one of the following skills: heeling, emergency stop, or long down/wait. A single opportunity to re-attempt the failed skill will be

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permitted on the same day. This skill must be re-tested and successfully completed prior to allowing the team to proceed to the rubble portion.

- The team must also complete five (5) of the six (6) obstacles listed in the Agility Element, including the four (4) mandatory obstacles.
- The evaluators must reach a majority consensus for both CEs and FSAs.
- Evaluations will be recorded on the Disaster Canine Performance Evaluation Form using the developed evaluator guidelines.
- At the conclusion of the process, the evaluation and comments will be reviewed with the respective Canine Search Specialist.
  - Copies of the completed evaluations will be forwarded to the respective task force and DHS/FEMA.
- Completed evaluations forwarded to the task force should be directed to the Canine Coordinator and/or Search Team Manager for review.
  - The Canine Coordinator and/or Search Team Manager should help develop a remediation plan to address any cited shortfalls.

### **Recertification:**

- Once a Disaster Search Canine Team has completed the FSA, it is eligible to take the Certification Evaluation.
- After a Disaster Search Canine Team has passed the CE, it will be required to be recertified within three years of its original certification at the first available opportunity for evaluation.
- Prior to application for each recertification the team shall complete the FSA.

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## **SECTION II FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT**

**Revised — JANUARY 2006**

## **SECTION II**

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### **Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)**

#### **Ground Rules**

The following rules apply to this area:

- The handler is required to follow all Ground Rules.
- No training aids (balls, food, toys, etc.), except where specified.
- A toy reward is allowed on the rubble and the bark alert.
- No collars or search vest on agility or rubble search exercises.
- Muzzles are not permitted in any phase of the evaluation process.
- No short lead, traffic lead, training tab or other weighted object may be attached to the collar at any time.
- No prong, choke or electronic collars.
- No practice on any element before the test.
- The handler must maintain continual control of the canine.
- Abuse (e.g., physical, mental, verbal, etc.) of the canine is not acceptable at any time.
- The handler is responsible for the care and safety of the canine at all times.
- Safety gear and procedures should be addressed continually. The following safety gear is required to be worn on the rubble site (helmet, gloves, long pants, long sleeve shirt, eye protection, safety toe, steel shank safety boots and knee protection).
- Aggression will not be tolerated at any time.
- All testing teams will complete all five elements if time allows unless excused by consensus of the evaluators for reasons of aggression, lack of safety or control, injury, at handler request or for failing two or more of the first four elements.
- Any accident/injury shall be reported immediately to the IC or their designee.

#### **Evaluation Procedures**

- The evaluators and the IC shall determine the testing area.
- It is recommended that a non-testing, FSA canine pre-test all elements.
- Rescue and medical capabilities must be readily available.

## **SECTION II**

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### **ELEMENT DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **Element 1 – Obedience**

##### **Rationale:**

- The canine on an incident must be under the control of the handler at all times, capable of heeling through crowds and non-aggressive to both people and other canines. The canine, for its safety, must be responsive to an emergency stop command. The long wait evaluates the reliability and calmness of the canine when the handler is not in sight.

##### **Required Skills:**

- Non-aggressive to stranger
- Non-aggressive to canine on Figure 8
- Heels through crowd, with turns and changes of pace
- Emergency Stop
- Stays on Long Wait for 5 minutes

##### **Aggression Testing:**

- Handler ties the canine and leaves it unattended. Handler proceeds to a designated area out of the canine's sight. After a minimum of one (1) minute out of sight, a stranger unties the canine and returns the canine to the handler.
- A canine search team completes a Figure 8 around two testing team handlers with their canines (post team) on lead, sitting at their side and spaced about eight feet apart. The testing team shall complete the pattern, on loose lead, passing within two feet of each of the post teams. During the exercise all three dogs will be evaluated for aggression.

##### **Handler Information:**

- The team must perform the following commands as directed while heeling off lead through a group of not less than five (5) milling people. Heeling is defined as the canine maintaining position at either side of the handler so as to be attentive to the handler and under his control at all times. Additional or repetitive commands are acceptable.
- Right turn
- Left turn
- About turn
- Halt
- Change of pace (normal, fast, slow)

## **SECTION II**

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### **Emergency Stop:**

- The dog shall be placed on a stay command 25 yards from the handler. Upon direction from the evaluator, the handler shall call their dog. The handler will then stop the dog when directed by the evaluator. Once the stop command has been given, an immediate change in gait is required and the canine must then come to a stop. The dog may drop, sit, or stand and will be judged by the quickness of its response. The handlers may give multiple commands. The dog shall remain stationary until released or recalled by the handler at the direction of the evaluator.

### **Long Wait:**

- The canine may be placed next to the handler's pack and at least 5 feet away from any other canine. The lead must be removed from the canine and may not be placed in front of the canine. Upon direction from the evaluator, the handler shall give the canine the wait command and the handler will proceed to a designated area out of the canine's sight. The canine must be under the supervision of a monitor. Time starts when the evaluator states "leave the canine". The canine may sit, stand or shift position, but shall not move more than a body length in any direction from where the canine was placed until the handler returns to the canine. After five (5) minutes, the evaluator will direct the handlers to return to the canines. Handlers may hand signal the canines to stay, if needed, while returning. The exercise is complete when all handlers have returned to their canines and the evaluator states 'exercise complete'. No release will be allowed by any team until the "exercise complete" command is issued.

### **Suggested Course Layout:**

- The course shall consist of an appropriately sized area that has been cleared of hazards to the canine, to perform the identified exercises. The designated handler area must be established to permit the efficient return when summoned.

## **Element 2 – Bark Alert/Alert Behavior**

### **Rationale:**

- Due to the varied and stressful demands of disaster search, an enthusiastic and obvious bark alert is imperative. Penetration and digging is desired to help identify the scent source. However, when the canine is searching, the bark alert is the only alert method that can be recognized from out-of-sight. With this information, the Search Team Manager can request other resources as needed to confirm the location.

## **SECTION II**

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### **Required Skills:**

- Repetitive barking (Focused Bark Indicating Live Human Scent – FBILHS-- for 30 seconds. (Barking may be interspersed with digging and attempts to penetrate.)
- The canine stays at victim location after indication of scent.
- The handler does not communicate with the canine after indication of scent.

### **Handler Information:**

- The team will have five (5) minutes to perform the exercise. The marked starting point will be 25 yards from the victim location. The handler will remove the canine's leash before the exercise begins. The canine may be given a hand signal and voice command to send the canine to the victim location. If the canine does not go directly to the victim location, the handler may use additional commands, as necessary, to direct the canine to the victim location. The handler may not move from the starting position.
- The handler may direct the canine toward the victim location but once the canine has located the victim's scent, the handler may not communicate with the canine in any way. Once the canine has committed to the victim location, it must remain focused, stay at the victim location and demonstrate an "independent of handler" bark alert behavior (FBILHS) for 30 seconds.
- There will be two official timers. One timer will start timing the exercise as soon as the handler sends the canine. The second timer will time the 30-second alert, starting with the first bark. The handler will be told when he or she may go to the canine. The canine will not be allowed access to the victim. When the exercise is over, the handler may praise the canine and reward with a toy, then leash the canine and quickly leave the area.

### **Suggested Course Construction:**

- A victim location will be set up in as isolated an area as the site permits. The location should be made/constructed of a material to give the optimum control of scent (example: barrels, concrete sewer pipe, etc.). Ideally, scent should only be detected from the front. There should be a slightly recessed, snug fitting cover with holes at the bottom for scent to escape. This cover may have a handle/grab bar on the inside for the victim to hold or it may be secured in place.
- The starting point shall be measured and clearly marked. This distance is to be 25 yards from the starting line to the victim location.

### **Victim Placement:**

- The victim shall be in place at least 10 minutes before the canine is sent.



## **SECTION II**

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### **Element 3 – Direction and Control**

#### **Rationale:**

- In order to search areas that the handler may not access or to avoid hazardous areas, the canine must demonstrate the ability to be directed and controlled by the handler. The canine should respond to audible and/or visual signals.

#### **Required Skills:**

- Goes up on each required elevation at the direction of the handler
- Waits on elevation until directed by handler

#### **Handler Information:**

- The handler will remove the canine's leash before the exercise begins.

#### **Directability:**

- On the first go out, the canine must go up onto a specified elevation without getting onto any other elevation. The handler may stop the canine and redirect or recall the canine and restart as many times as time allows. If the canine goes up on the incorrect elevation first, the canine must be recalled and restarted. This applies to the first direction only. After beginning the course, if the dog returns to the handler and crosses the start line (or is touched by the handler), he must start over.
- The team will have three (3) minutes to complete the course. The evaluators will designate which elevation the canine shall be sent to (right, left or center). The handler will direct the canine to a series of elevations. The pattern will include a go-out, a right, left, go-back and recall. The canine must go up onto the elevations and stay there for five seconds. The canine may sit, stand or lie down. The handler may give multiple commands.
- The elevations may consist of two or three different types of objects or they may be uniform.
- The canine will be directed to four or five designated elevations and stay for five seconds on each elevation, ending the exercise with a recall to the handler. (See the canine Directability diagram.) Diagonals will only be used to and from the starting position.

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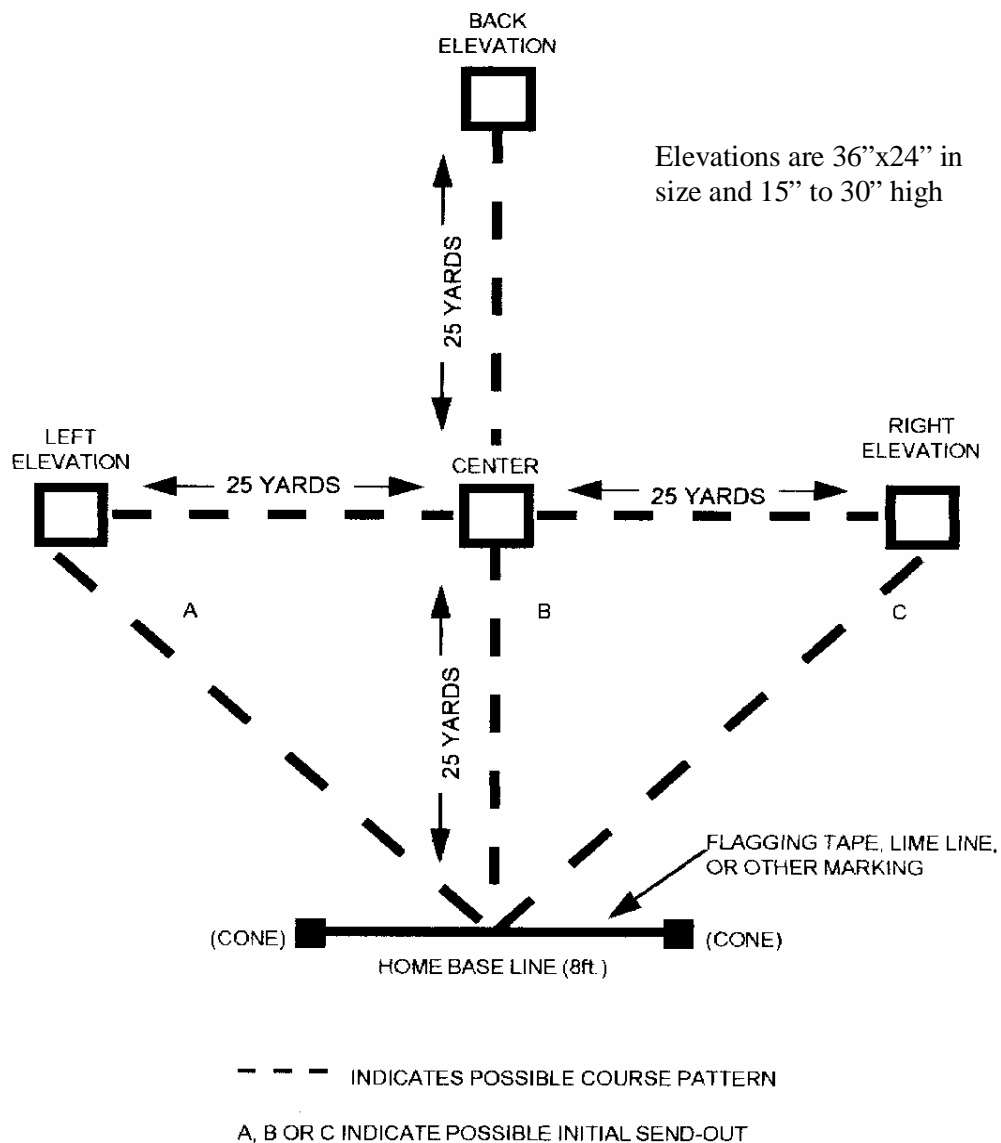
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### **Suggested Course Construction:**

- The course will be laid out in a diamond shape. The area should be uncluttered, clear as possible (approximately 75 yards clear). The start shall be an 8' base line or starting line that is clearly marked: See diagram.
- The center elevation shall be 25 yards from the base of starting line. All the other elevations shall be 25 yards from the center elevation.
- The elevations should be clearly visible to the canine. Elevations should be approximately 36" X 24" in size, 15" to 30" high, and stable. The intention is to provide simple, stable, distraction-free targets to demonstrate directability skills.

## SECTION II

### CANINE DIRECTABILITY



## **SECTION II**

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### **Element 4 – Agility**

#### **Rationale:**

- In order to safely search the rubble for victims, the canine must acquire certain specific skills and overcome some of its natural instincts. It may be dangerous to jump off moving objects. The canine must learn it is possible to balance or gain control of a moving object by using its body weight and gravity. In order to maintain traction on slippery surfaces, the canine must learn to spread its toes and not dig in with its toenails. It is very important that the canine learn to place each foot deliberately and independently on the rubble. Agility training will give the canine confidence on the rubble. The canine should be able to search the rubble without being overly concerned about its safety.

#### **Required Skills:**

- Completes five (5) of six (6) obstacles, including the four (4) mandatory obstacles
- Demonstrates stop and turn on any obstacle
- Canine precedes handler

#### **Handler Information:**

- This will include the following obstacles: ladder, elevated plank, unsteady/wobbly surface, tunnel
- The team shall have five (5) minutes to complete the agility course.
- The handler will be directed to the clearly marked beginning of the course. The handler shall remove the canine's collar and leash before starting. The course should be run in the sequence as numbered. However, if a canine refuses an obstacle, at the handler's discretion, the team may complete the course and re-attempt the obstacle in the remaining time. The canine should work as independently as possible following the handler's direction. Multiple commands are permitted.
- The canine should negotiate the obstacles confidently and carefully.
- The canine should negotiate the obstacles under handler control.
- Once the canine has started an obstacle, the handler should remain as stationary as possible.
- If the handler precedes the canine, the evaluator will instruct the handler to restart the canine on the obstacle. The handler may lift the canine off the obstacle or turn it around to restart.
- The handler may slow, stop or encourage the canine as needed, and may assist the canine, if needed, for safety reasons. Any physical assistance will require a restart of the obstacle.

## **SECTION II**

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- The handler shall demonstrate his ability to command the canine to stop and turn, which will be performed on any elevated obstacle (not the support) and in full view of the evaluators (i.e., not in the tunnel)

### **Obstacles (\* = mandatory completion):**

- \*The Little Giant ladder extended to 8.5 feet secured at an approximate 45-degree angle.
- \*A plank elevated at least 6 feet and no more than 8 feet off the ground (the 12" wide by 12' long plank is to be stable).
- \*3-foot high (approximate height) unsteady, wobbly surface constructed by using 4 sawhorses covered with a 4' by 8' sheet of 5/8" plywood. Different debris items to be placed on top not to exceed 2 feet in height, constructed to provide access to the dog either by walking up an incline or by jumping no more than 3 feet high.
- \*A dark, narrow tunnel/passageway containing at least one right angle turn. The canine should not be able to see through the tunnel to the end. Partial covering of the exit is permitted. The canine should fit into the tunnel without crawling.
- A seesaw (16' long by 12" wide plank on a 55-gallon drum).
- A slick, slippery/unpleasant surface
- A moving plank suspended on two barrels (12' long by 12" wide).
- Object that requires the canine to crawl on its belly (must be adjusted to approximately one half (1/2) the height at the withers of each canine).

### **Course Construction:**

- A new agility course will be constructed for the test.
- The goal should be to demonstrate the canine's ability to perform the required skills as well as the canine's confidence in the handler and willingness to undertake unfamiliar agility obstacles.
- The course shall be constructed to include six obstacles out of the listed obstacles.
- The course may be set up as six separately constructed obstacles or as a combination. If two or more obstacles are combined, the canine must have the opportunity to complete each of the obstacles independently. The obstacles must be designed to test the canine on the elements described.
- The course should be designed in such a way that the canine can precede the handler.
- Obstacles should be numbered clearly.
- The following obstacles must be included in the course:
  - ladder
  - elevated plank
  - unsteady, wobbly surface
  - tunnel

## **SECTION II**

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### **Element 5 – Rubble Site**

#### **Rationale:**

- The rubble search demonstrates the ability of the team to integrate all the previously evaluated elements, in a realistic, simulated disaster environment, into an effective search tool.

#### **Required Skills:**

- Establishes scene safety.
- Responsive to handler's direction and control
- Canine searches independently
- Canine shows commitment to each scent source
- FBILHS (Focused Bark Indicating Live Human Scent) on two victims with no false alerts
- Informs evaluators of canine's alert/location of each scent source
- Canine's agility
- Handler's agility – the ability to negotiate the rubble in a safe manner and without the assistance of other personnel
- Canine Alerts repetitively and independently of handler
- Handler demonstrates appropriate canine care, safety and welfare

#### **Handler Information:**

- The handler will remove the canine's collar and leash
- Handler establishes scene safety.
- Scene safety interview may include the following:
  - What time did the structure collapse?
  - What type of occupancy was the structure (school, office, apartment bldg., etc.)?
  - What is the number of suspected missing persons?
  - Has this structure been searched before?
  - Has a structural engineer checked the building?
    - > What were the findings?
    - > Is it safe to enter?
    - > Are blueprints available?
  - Has HazMat checked the building?
    - > What were the findings?
  - Have the utilities been secured? How and by whom?
    - > Gas
    - > Electric
    - > Water
  - Is Heavy Rescue available?

## **SECTION II**

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- Is Medical available?
- Is there a veterinarian available?
- There shall be five (5) minutes for the briefing/interview process. The team shall be allowed 15 minutes to search the rubble for two victims. The handler should inform the evaluators of the search strategy. Evaluators may or may not be positioned on the site while the canine is searching. The handler may not access the rubble site in any areas identified as inaccessible. The handler shall direct the canine to search the area. A Search Team Manager or one of the evaluators will do the handler briefing. The Evaluator Team will be in attendance during the briefing. Evaluators will then proceed to predetermined locations to view the rubblework before the team's 15-minute time starts.
- The handler may direct the canine to search but shall not encourage the canine's alert. The canine will be required to do the first bark alert out of sight before the handler can enter the search area.
- The procedure will be: The handler will send the canine on an independent search. When the handler hears the canine barking or is advised by an evaluator that the canine is barking, the handler shall notify the evaluator of the alert. The evaluator will instruct the handler to go to the canine. The handler may now verbally praise and encourage the canine. The handler must proceed directly and safely to the area indicated by the canine. The handler will promptly identify the scent source by the canine's actions. On the first alert, if the handler is unable to quickly locate the scent source by the canine's actions, he or she must immediately leave the site at the direction of the evaluators and restart the search. After identifying the area of the first alert, the handler will have full access to the search area and may direct/control the canine for the remainder of the allotted time. The handler may reward the canine with a toy on the rubble; however, no food rewards are allowed.

### **Course Construction:**

- There should be new, unused victim locations created for the evaluation. They should be created in inaccessible areas that are out of the handler's sight. The evaluators must have a clear view of the canine's work.
- The rubble site shall have a minimum average height of 10 feet and consist of an area of 3500 to 5000 square feet. It should consist predominantly of concrete or a mixture of materials common to disaster sites. Banner tape is to be used to reduce the search area when larger rubble sites are being used.

### **Victim Placement:**

- The victims shall be well concealed from both handler and canine.
- The hiding areas shall be carefully constructed to prevent small/large canines from accessing the victims.
- Rubble sites will have multiple victim locations.

## **SECTION II**

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- All victims will have a radio with an earpiece (if available) and shall be monitored on a constant basis.
- The victims must be in place 20 minutes before the canine is sent.

### **Performance Criteria and Evaluation Form Guidelines**

The evaluators shall consider the following list of key skills in determining the team's success for each of the elements.

#### **Ground Rules:**

- Handler is required to follow all Ground Rules
  - Did Not Complete      Handler did not follow all Ground Rules
  - Completed              Handler did follow all Ground Rules

#### **Obedience:**

- Non-aggressive to stranger in absence of handler
  - Did Not Complete      Canine demonstrates aggression
  - Completed              Canine does not demonstrate aggression
- Non-aggressive to canine on Figure 8 pattern
  - Did Not Complete      Canine demonstrates aggression
  - Completed              Canine does not demonstrate aggression
- Heels through crowd, with turns and change of pace
  - Did Not Complete      Does not maintain heel, distracted
  - Completed              Maintains heel, attentive to handler
- Emergency Stop
  - Did Not Complete      Does not show an immediate change in gait and does not stop
  - Completed              Shows immediate change in gait and stops
- Long Wait for 5 minutes
  - Did Not Complete      Does not stay within the designated area
  - Completed              Stays within the designated area with additional commands allowed.

#### **Bark Alert/Alert Behavior:**

- Barks repetitively and stays focused for thirty (30) seconds
  - Did Not Complete      Does not bark repetitively and stay focused for thirty (30) seconds
  - Completed              Barks repetitively (at least 3 barks) and stays focused for thirty (30) seconds
- Stays at the victim location or barrel after indication of scent
  - Did Not Complete      Leaves after indication
  - Completed              Stays after indication



## **SECTION II**

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- Handler does not communicate with the canine after indication of scent
  - Did Not Complete     Handler communicates after indication of scent
  - Completed             Handler does not communicate after indication of scent, independent work

### **Direction & Control:**

- Goes up on elevation & completes pattern
  - Did Not Complete     Does not go up on elevation & complete pattern
  - Completed             Goes up on evaluation & completes pattern
- Waits on elevation until directed by handler
  - Did Not Complete     Does not wait until directed
  - Completed             Leaves elevation when directed

### **Agility:**

- Completes required obstacles under handler's control
  - Did Not Complete     Does not complete five obstacles (including the four required)
  - Completed             Completes five or more obstacles (including the four required)

### **The following shall be evaluated for each obstacle:**

- Canine precedes handler
  - Did Not Complete     Handler precedes the canine
  - Completed             Handler directs canine over obstacle without preceding canine
- Demonstrates "Stop" & "Turn".
  - Did Not Complete     Does not demonstrate behavior
  - Completed             Demonstrates behavior

### **Rubble Site:**

- Handler establishes scene safety
  - Did Not Complete     Does not complete scene safety
  - Completed             Completes scene safety
- Responsive to handler direction and control
  - Did Not Complete     Does not respond to commands
  - Completed             Canine responsive to commands
- Canine searches independently
  - Did Not Complete     Canine does not search independently
  - Completed             Canine searches independently

## **SECTION II**

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- FBILHS (Focused Bark Indicating Live Human Scent) on two victims with no false alerts
  - Did Not Complete Does not bark repetitively or false alerts
  - Completed Barks repetitively at scent source
- Canine shows focused commitment to each scent source:
  - Did Not Complete Loses interest in victim
  - Completed Maintains interest in victim
- Canine Alerts repetitively and independently of handler
  - Did Not Complete Doesn't alert independently and repetitively at scent source.
  - Completed Alerts independently and repetitively at scent source.
- Informs evaluators of canine's alert/location of each scent source
  - Did Not Complete Does not recognize alert and/or can't identify scent source location by the canine's actions
  - Completed Recognizes alert, correctly identifies location of scent source by the canine's actions
- Canine agility/ability to negotiate rubble
  - Did Not Complete Does not negotiate the rubble in a safe manner
  - Completed Negotiates the rubble in a safe manner
- Handler agility/ability to negotiate rubble
  - Did not Complete Does not negotiate the rubble in a safe manner and without assistance
  - Completed Negotiates the rubble in a safe manner and without assistance

***FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY***

# **NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM**

**A Component of the Federal Response Plan  
Under Emergency Support Function 9**



## **SECTION III CERTIFICATION EVALUATION**

**Revised — January 2006**

### **SECTION III**

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#### **CERTIFICATION EVALUATION (CE)**

##### **Ground Rules:**

The following rules apply to this area:

- The handler is required to follow all Ground Rules
- Food rewards are to be contained and used with caution to prevent further site contamination.
- No collars or vests on canine while searching
- Muzzles are not permitted in any phase of the evaluation process.
- No short lead, traffic lead, training tab or other weighted object may be attached to the collar at any time.
- No prong, choke or electronic collars.
- Abuse (e.g., physical, mental, verbal, etc.) of the canine is not acceptable at any time.
- No access to search sites after setup of test
- Handler must maintain continual control of the canine
- Handler is responsible for care and safety of the canine at all times
- Safety gear and procedures should be addressed continually. The following safety gear is required to be worn on the rubble site (helmet, gloves, long pants, long sleeve shirt, eye protection, safety toe, steel shank safety boots and knee protection).
- Aggression will not be tolerated at any time
- Any accident/injury shall be reported immediately to the IC or their designee.

##### **Evaluation Procedures:**

- The evaluators and the IC shall determine the testing area.
- Rescue and medical capabilities must be readily available.
- It is recommended that non-testing, CE certified canines pre-test all search sites.

#### **Element Description**

##### **Rationale:**

- The Canine Search Team must be capable of working together in disaster search operations to locate victims. The handler will be evaluated on his ability to function as a Canine Search Specialist. The canine must be capable of searching independently and efficiently, as directed by the handler. The canine must focus on scent sources and alert by barking at the scent source.

##### **Required Skills:**

- Ground Rules

### **SECTION III**

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- Handler follows all Ground Rules
- Interview and Planning
  - Handler completes site assessment/interview
  - Handler establishes an initial search strategy
- Directability
  - Canine directs away from handler on command
  - Canine ranges out of sight
- Searching
  - Canine searches independently
  - Handler demonstrates appropriate canine care/safety/welfare
  - Canine shows commitment to scent source(s).
- Alert
  - Canine alerts independently of handler
  - FBILHS (Focused Bark Indicating Live Human Scent)
  - Canine shows commitment to scent source
  - Handler identifies and marks scent source
- Debriefing Technique
  - Site sketch
  - Search/Victim marking
  - Follow-up search recommendations

#### **Handler Information:**

- The CE will consist of one element — Disaster Search Operations.
- To successfully complete the evaluation, the team must cover each search site, locate five of the six victims and have no more than one false alert, and pass the performance criteria and evaluation guidelines.
- Handler shall establish scene safety. This interview may include the following:
  - What time did the structure collapse?
  - What type of occupancy was the structure (school, office, apartment bldg., etc.)?
  - What is the number of suspected missing persons?
  - Has this structure been searched before?
  - Has a structural engineer checked the building?
    - > What were the findings?
    - > Is it safe to enter?
    - > Are blueprints available?
    - > Has HazMat checked the building?
    - > What were the findings?
    - > Have the utilities been secured? How and by whom?
      - ◆ Gas
      - ◆ Electric
      - ◆ Water

### **SECTION III**

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- Is Heavy Rescue available?
- Is Medical available?
- Is there a veterinarian available?

#### **Course Construction:**

- There will be three separate search sites. Each site will be no closer than 20 feet to the others.
- Each search site will consist of an area 6,000 – 15,000 sq. feet, with a minimum average height of 6 to 10 feet. The intention is to provide criteria to adjust the footprint of the pile based on the complexity and height, with more complex rubble reduced in square footage and less complex rubble increased in square footage. The rubble debris should consist of concrete, wood, mixed material, partially or completely collapsed structures. A structure that meets the above criteria and consistent with a disaster scene can be used as one of the three search sites. Banner tape is to be used to reduce the search area when larger rubble sites are being used.
- One or more search sites will be contaminated with distractions:
  - There will be 0 to 3 scent distractions allowed on any one site with a maximum of 5 total scent distractions for the evaluation.
  - The scent distractions should be placed so as not to overlap with the scent of the victim(s).
  - This should include people, animals (dead or alive/caged), food, smoke, etc. Human cadaver material will not be used.
  - Food should be hidden carefully and inaccessible to the canine
  - There should be noise distractions such as running generators, machinery, rescue tools, etc.
  - Some of the noise distractions may be supplied by audiotapes. The environment should mirror the real situation.

#### **Victim Placement:**

- There will be a total of six (6) victims. They shall be placed at least 20 minutes before the evaluation begins. There will be from 0 - 3 concealed victims in each search site.
- The victims shall be well concealed from both handler and canine.
- The hiding areas should be carefully constructed to prevent small/large canines from accessing the victim.
- There will be several false victim locations constructed.
- All victims will have a radio with an earpiece (if available), and should be monitored on a constant basis.

#### **Search Procedures:**

- The three search sites will have different accessibility to the handler.
  - One site is completely accessible to the handler.

### **SECTION III**

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- One site will provide access to the perimeter and high point of the site to gain a visual overview of the entire site. The handler may enter the site to mark an alert and restart the canine. After restarting the canine, the handler must return to the perimeter or high point.
- One site will provide access to only one well-marked portion of the perimeter. The canine must search the area out of the handler's sight in order to locate the victim(s). The handler may access the rubble to mark the alert location and restart the canine. The handler may remain within a five-foot radius of the alert location or return to the perimeter while the canine continues to search for victims.
- A 5-minute briefing will be provided at each site.
- Each handler will use flagging tape to mark scent sources as indicated by the canine.
- The team has 20 minutes to search each site.
- The handler shall have 10 minutes to debrief. On the full access site, the handler shall make a site sketch including name/TF/date/time, alerts (and means to identify them, i.e. distance from perimeter, compass reading or GPS coordinates), wind direction, basic shape of site split into quadrants a, b, c and d, areas of interest, areas covered and not covered, hazards, search markings, prominent features and compass orientation (N and S).
- The Lead Evaluator at each site shall be responsible for designating an individual who will be tasked with retrieving the flagging tapes.
- The team will be allowed a 10-minute rest period (plus any relocation time, if necessary) between each search site.

#### **Evaluation Completion:**

Evaluation completion will be based on the Performance Criteria and Evaluation Form guidelines for CE, including the requirements of locating five (5) of the six (6) victims and having no more than one (1) false alert.

#### **Performance Criteria And Evaluation Form Guidelines**

The evaluators shall consider the following list of key skills in determining the team's success for each of the elements.

#### **Ground Rules:**

- Handler is required to follow all Ground Rules
  - Did Not Complete      Handler did not follow all Ground Rules
  - Completed              Handler did follow all Ground Rules

### **SECTION III**

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#### **Interview and Planning:**

- Site assessment/interview
  - Did Not Complete Does not establish scene safety
  - Completed Established scene safety
- Establish an initial search strategy
  - Did Not Complete Does not have search strategy
  - Completed Has a search strategy

#### **Directability:**

- Directs away from handler on command
  - Did Not Complete Will not follow handler's command
  - Completed Can be directed away from handler
- Ranges out of sight
  - Did Not Complete Will not range out of sight
  - Completed Ranges out of sight

#### **Searching:**

- Canine searches independently
  - Did Not Complete Does not search independently
  - Completed Canine searches independently
- Handler demonstrates canine care/safety/welfare
  - Did Not Complete Handler does not demonstrate canine care/safety/welfare
  - Completed Handler demonstrates canine care/safety/welfare
- Canine shows commitment to scent sources
  - Did Not Complete Loses interest in scent source(s)
  - Completed Maintains interest in scent source(s)

#### **Alert:**

- Canine alerts independent of handler
  - Did Not Complete Does not alert independent of handler
  - Completed Alerts independently
- FBILHS (Focused Bark Indicating Live Human Scent)
  - Did Not Complete Does not bark or multiple false alerts
  - Completed Barks at the scent source
- Canine shows commitment to scent source
  - Did not complete Loses interest in scent source
  - Completed Maintains interest in scent source
- Handler identifies and marks scent source



### **SECTION III**

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- |                    |                                                 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| - Did Not Complete | Handler does not identify and mark scent source |
| - Completed        | Handler does identify and mark scent source     |

#### **Debriefing Process:**

- Search markings
  - Did Not Complete Does not use search markings correctly
  - Completed Uses search markings correctly
- Site sketch skills
  - Did Not Complete Does not draw site sketch indicating victim locations
  - Completed Does draw site sketch indicating victim locations
- Follow-up Search Recommendations
  - Did Not Complete Makes no recommendations
  - Completed Makes recommendations confirming alert and follow-up actions

*FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY*

# **NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM**

**A Component of the Federal Response Plan  
Under Emergency Support Function 9**



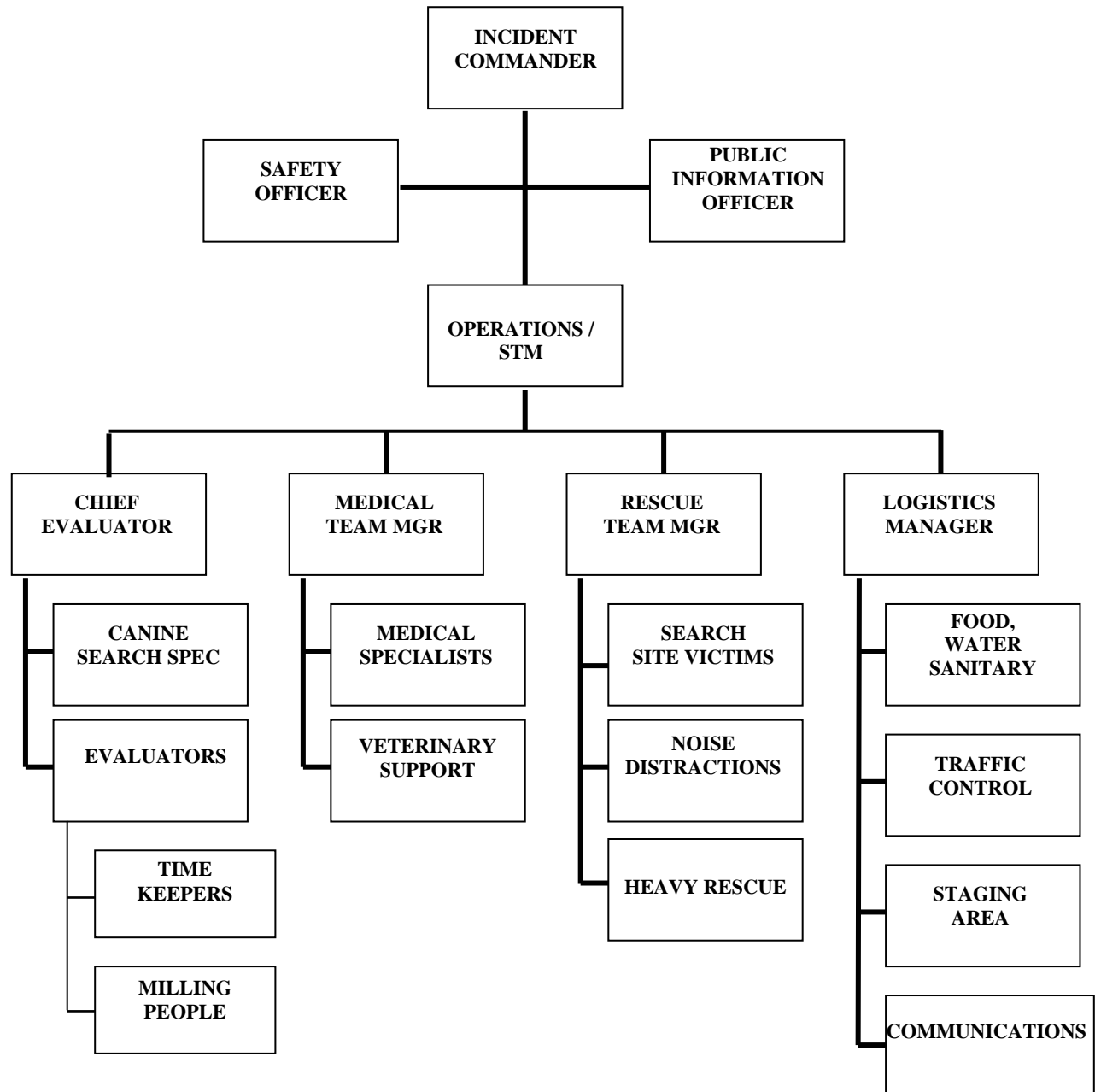
## **SECTION IV**

# **EVALUATION PROCEDURES DISASTER SEARCH CANINE READINESS EVALUATION PROCESS**

**Revised — January 2006**

## SECTION IV

### Evaluation Organizational Structure



## **SECTION IV**

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### **Evaluation Planning / Logistics**

The following information describes the flow of events that are required to administer the FSA and the CE.

#### **Preliminary:**

- Refer to Standard Operating Procedures for hosting a DHS/FEMA test

#### **Personnel:**

- Identify the Incident Commander (separate from the evaluators)
- Evaluator teams consist of:
  - FSA – Two (2) rostered evaluators.
  - CE – Ten (10) rostered evaluators, including one Lead Evaluator per site and one Chief Evaluator. Each site will each have three Evaluators. The Chief Evaluator is the primary liaison to the hosting task force and overall leader of the Evaluator Cadre. The Chief Evaluator will not be tied to a site, but will rove, overseeing the entire evaluation. Only one non-canine handler may be used per site and each site should have a mix of task force affiliations.
  - Evaluators may not test and evaluate in the same event.
- Chief Evaluator Role and Responsibilities:
  - Establish contact with Hosting Organization and National Search Working Group
  - On site, plan test site layout and brief other evaluators and other site personnel regarding site set-up and suitability, timelines, evaluation order, protocols, and other matters related to the conduct of the evaluation.
  - Coordinate with Incident Commander (IC), who will be in charge of concerns regarding site safety, transportation, site control, procurement, briefing and transport of victims, and other matters related to logistics.
  - Coordinate with other evaluators and Safety Officer to make final selection, approval, and pre-testing of selected victim placement holes.
  - Ensure that all evaluators adhere to established testing procedures.
  - Facilitate a consensus agreement as needed to resolve issues regarding scoring.
  - Delegate responsibility for the shadow evaluators to an experienced evaluator or the shadow mentor.
  - Forward a shadow evaluator report to the Subcommittee.
  - Ensure that the Peer Reviews are collected and forwarded to the Subcommittee for inclusion in the After Action Report. (The peer reviews are optional for testing handlers, but mandatory for all participating evaluators)
  - Ensure that all paperwork is complete and consistent. Forward completed evaluation package directly to DHS/FEMA or their designee, the Disaster Search Canine Candidate Team and their Task Force Leader.
  - Complete and distribute After Action Report according to the guidelines in the SOPs.

## **SECTION IV**

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- DHS/FEMA supported evaluations will utilize an Evaluator Rotation Process as established by DHS/FEMA.
  - The current rotation roster of qualified evaluators is maintained at DHS/FEMA.
- Conflict of Interest: While the honesty of all evaluators is presumed, the integrity of the National US&R Disaster Search Canine Program is primary and must be above criticism. To avoid the possibility of a perception of subjectivity, for or against a testing team, no more than one of the evaluators of a testing team may come from list below. This list includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - a member of the testing team's primary training group,
  - a member of the testing team's Task Force,
  - a business partner or employee of the testing team,
  - the primary trainer of the testing team, or an employee (paid or unpaid) of the team being evaluated.
- No evaluator may evaluate a spouse, ex-spouse, parent, sister, brother or significant other of the testing handler.
- Identify support personnel:
  - Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
  - Safety Officer
  - Logistics Officer
  - Staging Officer
  - Timers
  - Victims
  - Communications Officer
  - Milling People
  - Food Services
  - Runners/assistants
  - Parking Manager
  - Recorder/statistician
  - Rescue

### **Evaluation Site:**

- Site selection and availability
- Course construction

### **FSA Criteria Element Descriptions:**

- There should be new, unused victim locations created for the evaluation. They should be created in inaccessible areas that are out of the handler's sight. The evaluators must have a clear view of the canine's work.

## **SECTION IV**

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- The rubble site shall have a minimum average height of 10 feet and consist of an area of 3500 to 5000 square feet. It should consist predominantly of concrete or a mixture of materials common to disaster sites. Banner tape is to be used to reduce the search area when larger rubble sites are being used.

### **CE Criteria Element Descriptions:**

- There will be three separate search sites. Each site will be no closer than 20 feet to the others.
- Each search site will consist of an area 6,000 – 15,000 sq. feet, with a minimum average height of 6 to 10 feet. The intention is to provide criteria to adjust the footprint of the pile based on the complexity and height, with more complex rubble reduced in square footage and less complex rubble increased in square footage. The rubble debris should consist of concrete, wood, mixed material, partially or completely collapsed structures. A structure that meets the above criteria and consistent with a disaster scene can be used as one of the three search sites. Banner tape is to be used to reduce the search area when larger rubble sites are being used.
- Facilities
  - Sanitation considerations (human and canine)
  - Staging area
  - Parking area
  - Canteen area
  - Hand washing station

### **Briefing / Housekeeping:**

- Evaluators
  - Pre-incident briefing/evaluation process
  - Site review
  - Rotation schedule development
- Support personnel
  - Assignments
- Recorder/statistician
  - Collects and compiles evaluations at the end of each individual evaluation and summarizes results
- Handlers
  - Rotation schedule/assignment
- Postings (in Staging Area)
  - Rules and regulations
  - Rotation schedule
- Conduct field operations

## **SECTION IV**

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- Evaluator meetings
  - Correlate scores and results
  - Complete paperwork
- Evaluator / handler meetings
  - Debrief
  - Critique
- Clean-up / Breakdown
  - Site restoration
  - Release of personnel
  - Final critique

*FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY*

# **NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM**

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Under Emergency Support Function 9**



## **SECTION V**

# **EVALUATOR PREREQUISITES DISASTER SEARCH CANINE READINESS EVALUATION PROCESS**

**Revised — January 2006**



## **SECTION V**

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**All applications to become an evaluator must be approved by the applicant's Program Manager.**

### **CE Evaluator Prerequisites**

#### **Application Process:**

- Submit completed application to Search Working Group via the Canine Sub-committee.
- Upon approval, request shadow evaluator assignment
- Complete shadow requirements within 18 months of initial application approval date.
- Submit application to the National US&R Search Working Group via the Canine Sub-committee for approval by DHS/FEMA.
- Become rostered by DHS/FEMA.

#### **Canine Handler:**

- Must be attached to a DHS/FEMA Task Force
- Certified CSS (past or current)
- Three years minimum experience as task dog handler
- Shadow evaluate at least two FSAs
- Shadow evaluate at least two CEs
- Administer an FSA
- Completion of Canine Search Specialist Training Course

#### **Non-Canine Handler:**

- Must be attached to a DHS/FEMA Task Force
- Search Team Manager for at least three years
- Shadow evaluate at least two FSAs
- Shadow evaluate at least two CEs
- Administer an FSA
- Completion of Canine Search Specialist Training Course

#### **Lead/Chief Evaluator**

- Must be an evaluator
- Must have evaluated a minimum of 6 FSAs and 6 CEs

#### **To Maintain Status:**

- Evaluate at least one FSA and one CE every two years
- Attend twice yearly Evaluator Conference Calls
- Subject to twice yearly review and approval of Program Managers

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

# **NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM**

A Component of the Federal Response Plan  
Under Emergency Support Function 9



## **APPENDIX A FULL SIZE FORMS**



**FEMA**

DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System  
Evaluator Application (Please Print Legibly)

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Task Force: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria			
1.	<input type="checkbox"/> Certified CSS or <input type="checkbox"/> Search Team Manager		
2.	<input type="checkbox"/> Three Years Experience		
		Date	Location
3.	Shadowed Two FSAs	1.	
		2.	
4.	Shadowed Two CEs	1.	
		2.	
5.	Administered an FSA		
6.	Canine Search Specialist Course		
7.	Rostered by DHS/FEMA		

I affirm that I have read, understand and will abide by the DHS/FEMA/US&R Code of Conduct and understand that violation of said rules and Code of Conduct may result in loss of certifications, loss of evaluator status and/or referral to the appropriate authorities. I further affirm that I understand that abuse of the canine is not permitted at any time.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Task Force Leader/Program Manager, Search Team Manager and K9 Coordinator recommend the applicant for Evaluator.

K9 Coordinator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Task Force Leader/Program Manager	Search Team Manager
_____	_____
(Signature)	(Signature)
_____	_____
(Printed Name)	(Printed Name)
Date: _____	Date: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Email: _____	Email: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____



**FEMA**

DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System  
Lead Evaluator Application (Please Print Legibly)

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Task Force: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Requirements					
Six FSAs			Six CEs		
	Date	Location		Date	Location
1.			1.		
2.			2.		
3.			3.		
4.			4.		
5.			5.		
6.			6.		

I affirm that I have read, understand and will abide by the DHS/FEMA/US&R Code of Conduct and understand that violation of said rules and Code of Conduct may result in loss of certifications, loss of evaluator status and/or referral to the appropriate authorities. I further affirm that I understand that abuse of the canine is not permitted at any time.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Task Force Leader/Program Manager, Search Team Manager and K9 Coordinator recommend the applicant for Lead Evaluator.

K9 Coordinator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Task Force Leader/Program Manager	Search Team Manager
_____	_____
(Signature)	(Signature)
_____	_____
(Printed Name)	(Printed Name)
Date: _____	Date: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Email: _____	Email: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____



**FEMA**

## DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System

### Application for Certification Evaluation/Certification Preparation

**(Please Print Legibly)**

(Delivery and receipt of this application does not guarantee acceptance. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure acceptance or denial of this application)

CE/CP Date:		CE/CP Location:	
Recert: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Number of Prior Attempts:	Date of FSA:	
Applicant's Personal Information			
Name:		Task Force:	
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Contact Phone:		Email Address:	
Emergency Contact:		Relationship:	
Address:		Contact Phone:	
Canine Information			
Canine's Name:		Breed:	
DOB:		Date of Rabies Vaccination:	
<p>My dog and I are physically sound and are currently under no restrictions. I understand and accept that the decisions of the evaluators are final. I affirm that I have read, understand and will abide by the DHS/FEMA/US&amp;R Code of Conduct and understand that violation of said rules and Code of Conduct may result in loss of certifications, loss of evaluator status and/or referral to the appropriate authorities. I further affirm that I understand that abuse of the canine is not permitted at any time.</p>			
Applicant Signature:			Date:
<p>The above team is in compliance with the DHS/FEMA policy on aggression, successfully completed a TF administered FSA and is approved to participate in this evaluation.</p>			
K9 Coordinator Signature:			Date:
Task Force Leader/Program Manager		Search Team Manager	
_____		_____	
(Signature)		(Signature)	
_____		_____	
(Printed Name)		(Printed Name)	
Date:		Date:	
Address: _____		Address: _____	
_____		_____	
_____		_____	
Email:		Email:	
Phone:		Phone:	



**FEMA**

DHS/FEMA US&R Response System  
Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Handler: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Canine: \_\_\_\_\_

Task Force/Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator (signature): \_\_\_\_\_

Handler has successfully completed all elements per the DSCREP: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Element	Required Skills	C	DNC	Comments				
Ground Rules	Handler followed all ground rules							
Obedience	Human aggression test							
	Canine aggression test							
	Off-lead heeling							
	Emergency stop							
	Long wait							
Bark Alert	Barks repetitively and stays focused for 30 seconds							
	Stays at the victim location/barrel after indication of scent							
	Handler does not communicate with canine after indication of scent							
Direction and Control	Goes up on elevation							
	Waits on elevation until directed by handler							
	Completes assigned pattern							
Agility	Must complete five (5) of six (6) obstacles, including the four (4) mandatory obstacles (Ladder, Plank, Tunnel, Wobbly Surface)	Order	Obstacles	K9 Precedes Handler	Stop, Turn On One Obstacle			
			C	DNC	C	DNC	C	DNC
	*Ladder							
	*Elevated Plank							
	*Tunnel							
	*Wobbly Surface							
	See Saw							
	Slick Surface							
	Crawl							
	Moving Plank							
Rubble Test		C	DNC	Interview Items	C	DNC		
	Handler scene safety/interview			Scene safety?				
	Responsive to handler direction and control							
	Canine searches independently			Other Questions	Noted			
	FBILHS on two (2) victims with no false alerts			Time of collapse?				
	Canine shows commitment to each scent source			Type of occupancy?				
	Informs evaluators of canine's alert/location of each scent source			Suspected missing?				
	Canine alerts repeatedly and independent of handler			Searched before?				
	Demonstrates appropriate canine care/safety/welfare			Structural Eng. Check?				
	Canine agility/ability to negotiate rubble			Findings?				
	Handler agility/ability to negotiate rubble			Safe/Entry?				
	Comments: (please use back of form for more comments if necessary)			Prints?				
			HazMat checked?					
			Findings?					
			Utilities: who/how secured?					
			Gas Elec Water					
			Rescue?					
			Medical?					
			Vet?					



**FEMA**

DHS/FEMA US&R Response System  
Certification Evaluation (CE)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Handler: \_\_\_\_\_

Task Force: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Canine: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator (signature): \_\_\_\_\_

Site Order:	Search Site:
# Of Victims Placed:	# Of Victims Found:
# Of False Alerts:	# Of Distractions: Type:

Required Skills	C	DNC	Interview Item	C	DNC
Ground Rules			Scene Safety?		
Handler followed all ground rules					
Interview and Planning			Other Questions	Noted	
Site assessment/interview			Time of collapse?		
Establish initial search plan			Type of occupancy?		
Directability			Suspected missing?		
Directs away from handler			Searched before?		
Ranges out of sight			Structural Eng. Check?		
Searching			Findings?		
Searches independently			Safe/Entry?		
Demonstrates appropriate canine care/safety/welfare			Prints?		
Canine shows commitment to scent source(s)			HazMat checked?		
Canine agility/ability to negotiate rubble			Findings?		
			Utilities: who/how secured		
			Gas: Elec: Water:		
			Rescue?		
			Medical?		
			Vet?		
	Victim 1		Victim 2		Victim 3
	C	DNC	C	DNC	C DNC
Alert					
Canine alerts repeatedly and independent of handler					
Focused bark indicating live human scent					
Identifies and marks alert location					
Canine shows commitment to scent source					
Debriefing					
Search markings					
Site sketch					
Follow-up search recommendations					

Comments (please use back of form for more comments if necessary):



**FEMA**

DHS/FEMA US&R Response System  
Certification Evaluation (CE) Cover Sheet

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Handler: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Canine: \_\_\_\_\_

Task Force: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Evaluator (signature): \_\_\_\_\_

	Evaluators			Evaluators			Evaluators		
	Site #1			Site #2			Site #3		
Site Order									
# of Victims Placed									
# of Victims Found									
# of False Alerts									

Required Skills	Enter C or DNC			Enter C or DNC			Enter C or DNC		
Ground Rules									
Handler followed all ground rules									
Interview and Planning									
Site assessment/interview									
Establish initial search plan									
Directability									
Directs away from handler									
Ranges out of sight									
Searching									
Searches independently									
Demonstrates appropriate canine care/safety/welfare									
Canine shows commitment to scent source(s)									
Canine agility/ability to negotiate rubble									
Alert									
Canine alerts repeatedly and independent of handler									
Focused bark indicating live human scent									
Identifies and marks alert location									
Canine shows commitment to scent source									
Debriefing									
Search markings									
Site sketch									
Follow-up search recommendations									



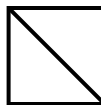
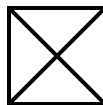



Recommended for Certification: ☐ Yes ☐ No



# **APPENDIX B**

## **CHECKLIST: SCENE SAFETY**

### **ESTABLISHMENT CHECKLIST**

Time of the collapse:	<div style="text-align: center;"> <del>Date/Time</del>  <b>Task Force out</b>  Date/time Hazards  In Victims  #L/#D </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  <b>= incomplete search</b> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>SAFE TO ENTER</b> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>SOME HAZARDS</b> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>DO NOT ENTER</b> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>V</b>  Suspected VICTIM </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   Confirmed LIVE </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   Confirmed DEAD </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   Removed VICTIM </div> </div>
Type of Occupancy	
Number of Suspected Missing	
Searched Before?	
Checked by Structural Engineer?	
Findings?	
Safe to enter?	
Prints available?	
HazMat checked?	
Findings?	
Utilities: Who & How secured?	
Gas	
Electric	
Water	
Heavy Rescue Available	
Medical Available?	
Veterinary Available?	

# **APPENDIX C**

## **US&R CODE OF CONDUCT**

The DHS/FEMA US&R Response System Code of Conduct can be found in the US&R Operations Manual.

Below is a copy as a quick reference card. Consult a current copy of the US&R Operations Manual for the latest revision.

No transportation/use of illegal drugs/alcohol.
No firearms allowed.
Normal radio protocol used. Traffic kept to a minimum.
Know your chain of command/who you report to.
Limit procurement of equipment.
Do not take things without authorization.
Act professionally.
Remain ready even when unassigned.
Recreation limited to unassigned hours.
Maintain/wear safety gear/clothing.
Wear proper uniform.
Your actions reflect your organization and DHS/FEMA.